



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 30th November 2016
at Winifred Kettle Centre

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (19)

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| 1. Bethel Crowd (BCD) | 13. Washacre FM (WFM) |
| 2. Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC) | 14. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 3. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 15. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP) |
| 4. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL) | 16. Westhoughton High School (WHS) |
| 5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 17. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) |
| 6. Hindley's and Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 18. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC) |
| 7. Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE) | 19. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG) |
| 8. Hope Church (HOPE) | ~ Bolton Council (CEF) |
| 9. Howfen Radio (HFR) | ~ Bolton CVS (BCVS) |
| 10. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW) | ~ Clegg's Lane Church Community Workshop (MIS) |
| 11. Senior Solutions (SNS) | ~ Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF) |
| 12. St. Bartholomew's/Thomas/ George Parish (SBC) | ~ PSoup (PSP) |
| | ~ Westhoughton Leisure Centre (WLC) |

Individuals in attendance (30)

Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Darren Knight (BCVS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Ann Butler (WHS)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Jason Taylor (BCD)
Charlotte Carlin (PSP)	M Lloyd (FoWS)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Alan Clare (MIS)	Dawn Lythgoe (CEF)	Michelle Todd (SNS)
Johnny Crook (WPS)	Phil Macivor (HFR)	Hillary Welsby (SNS)
Doug Cunliffe (WFM)	Beth Maunder (BLGC)	James Wilson (SBC)
Rev'd Lesley Dinham (WMC)	Tony McGarry (WACO)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Steve Harrington (RCW)	Susan Missin (HDLF)	Mike Wood (HACFRA/WAVE)
Stephen Hesketh (WASP)	Sarah Morris (WLC)	Ann Benn (FoEL) SECRETARY
Katie Hockley (BLGC)	Lisa Reilly (HFR)	Chris Buckley (WCN) CHAIR

Apologies (22)

Sue Ashcroft (Westhoughton Methodist Church); Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton);
Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild); Rev. Canon Chris Bracegirdle (St. Bartholomew's Church);
Paul Buxton (Scouts Association); Jayne Caldwell (Guiding UK); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group);
David Chadwick (Westhoughton Town Council); Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (Barking Berrys);
Tim Eden (Travelliin' Strings); Stephen Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Sandra Greenall
(Westhoughton Community Royalty); Bill Greenhalgh (Westhoughton Methodist ADS); Dave Hendry (Westhoughton
Art Group); Linda James (Yarn Bombing Festival); Dennis Lee (George Formby Society); Kellie McGarry
(W.A.C.O.); Joy Mooney (Wingates Band); Shirley Pinches (Westhoughton Learning Centre); Brenda Shott (Friends
of Eatock Lodge); Annaliese Sims (Guiding UK); Jayne Tramontana (Bolton College).



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chris Buckley chaired the meeting. He expressed thanks to Bolton Council and the staff at Winifred Kettle for the use of the premises, and to Senior Solutions for providing refreshments. Apologies were noted. Minutes of the last meeting were approved, and issues around drawing up a Constitution and the opening of a WCN bank account were deferred until a future meeting. Those present briefly introduced themselves and who they represented.

3. Harold Daniels Legacy Fund

We were joined by Susan Missin (Harold Daniels' daughter) who thanked WCN for its support to the family and for the sentiments expressed at the Memorial Service in October. She explained the aims of the fund (currently at £3,000); its purpose to support disadvantaged, underprivileged and disabled people living in Westhoughton and Bolton (Melbourne Rd/Willows area), with particular emphasis on the young and old. Proposals with sport, education and alleviating poverty are themes the family want to focus on too.

They are looking for opportunities to make the fund grow by securing other sources of funding, as well as using fund donations to attract matched funding or other grants. Approaches are welcome from WCN groups for grants.

Harold's book – 'Harold Remembered' - compiled from thoughts and recollections of Harold's life is now available. Suggested donation of £5 towards Legacy Fund; available from Rigby's Chemist, Church Street or through WCN.

An initial donation has been made to BRAKE (charity supporting those families affected by the outcome of road traffic accidents). Supported by BRAKE, the family are hoping to work with local schools to promote road safety, for example quizzes.

Susan disclosed that the driver involved in Harold's accident is to be charged with careless driving.

The room expressed support and warm wishes to Susan; glad that she could witness one of our gatherings in which was Harold played a big part.

4. Community Empowerment Fund

Dawn Lythgoe from Bolton Council attended WCN to give an update on her previous presentation (February 2016) regarding this fund aimed at supporting community groups setting up or taking on projects that can benefit local communities, providing needed and sustainable services.

There is still some £800,000 available, and the remit of the Fund has been extended to include existing schemes and initiatives which support Council priorities. These include initiatives involving young people, environment, activities promoting health and wellbeing, and older people. Examples of successful applications and application forms are available online at www.bolton.gov.uk/cef.



Westhoughton Community Network

Further information to be circulated separately. It was agreed that if so desired a training session/workshop can be held in Westhoughton for groups interested in developing schemes and applying for this fund.

5. 'Men in Sheds'

'Men in Sheds' started off a scheme for men with free time and skills to come together and give practical support for community endeavours, run as Clegg's Lane Church Community Workshop and Gardens (Little Hulton) and open to all, Alan Clare gave an introduction to the work done both in the workshop and as a trainer and teacher of practical, design and engineering skills (STEM focussed). Alan showed examples of work with photos, models and took questions. Whilst it is a voluntary group it does also generate some income. Alan has a wide network of contacts and would be happy to help with similar schemes or educational projects in Westhoughton.

6. Westhoughton High School

Ann Butler (School Business Manager) introduced the new Westhoughton Business Hub initiative from the High School – the former Caretakers Cottage, it is a unique facility offering work and meeting rooms, as well as a larger boardroom. It is modern, well-equipped and able to offer catering. Whilst operating on a commercial basis, WHS are happy for there to be community use on an ad hoc basis for WCN groups (subject to availability). Enquiries through the online booking form westhoughtonhub.communitybookings.co.uk | 01942 850082.

Ann also gave an update on the school's involvement with the community, the new all-weather 3G Football pitch under construction (bookings via the Leisure Centre), and feedback on the 'Westhoughton You Decide' projects, funded through the Area Forum – the Polytunnel, which has improved the Garden Club, with produce shared with the wider community (especially during 'Kindness Week' in July); the Allotment Project, improving garden beds (community involvement welcome); and Performing Arts, funding helped towards stage lighting, with performances enjoyed by all; games and other activities were also supported.

7. Senior Solutions

Now based at and settled into the Winifred Kettle Centre, Michelle Todd, commented that 2017 will see the 20th anniversary of Senior Solutions, with some funding security and the expectation to grow... the new Tuesday afternoon Social Group at Sacred Heart has been a great success.

New volunteers are welcome for both visiting service and luncheon clubs; especially men – just 1 hour per week can make a big difference.

Former Trustee Harold Daniels is sorely missed by all at Senior Solutions, which took copies of the booklet 'Harold Remembered' for distribution.



8. Bolton Lads and Girls Club

Kate and Beth from Bolton Lads and Girls Club Westhoughton gave a brief update of current activities – currently 2 evening sessions a week for Junior and Senior members; looking at interactions with other groups to support goals of encouraging youths to be more involved in wider community activities. More volunteers needed for youth work to help sustain and grow club activities.

There was a break at 7:50 for refreshments and networking.

9. Information Share

Bethel Crowd – a busy year for the Amateur Dramatic currently preparing for their 2017 pantomime 'Puss in Boot's, to be performed Friday/Saturday 27th/28th January, 3rd/4th February 7:15pm (matinees at 2:15pm on both Saturdays). Tickets are £6.00, available from Bethel or online through [Ticket Source](#).

On Saturday, 10th December (7:15pm) Bethel Crowd Junior Workshop to perform 'Silent Night', telling the story the poem that became a carol. Tickets £5 inc. supper.

James Wilson gave an update on **Urban Outreach and Grub Tubs**... They were extremely grateful for food donated at the 'Harold Daniels Memorial Service', and the continued support from the Westhoughton community for the Storehouse project helping the most needy. Over the last 6 months 1,093 households have had food parcels – 354 of those are first-time households. Church of England Schools and Churches have pledged 1,000 packets of biscuits this year for the Christmas Hamper appeal.

Westhoughton Parish Churches – a busy time, all the usual Christmas Fayres, Christmas Concerts and events will take place across the festivities, including the Annual CoE Toy Appeals working with Bolton Lions, who deliver Christmas presents to less fortunate children (up to 16) across the borough. Donations of gifts welcome.

The Christmas Day meal for people on their own at the Mercury Hotel is on again this year; helpers before, during and after the event needed to ensure its success.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous New Year, James reminded groups that Church Ministers are available for visits and community support.

Friends of Westhoughton Station (Brian Leyden) – meet Sundays 10-12 for volunteer work on site. Christmas decorations now in place. The group now has links with Myerscough College. The Rotary Club have donated bulbs in memory of Harold Daniels.

FoWS will hold their AGM on Wednesday, 18th January (7pm) at The Wheatsheaf.

W.A.S.P. continues to be active, Stephen Hesketh looking forward to the Christmas party and planning for 2017. Group set to return to Winifred Kettle for meetings.

Westhoughton Leisure Centre – extra activities over school holidays; free 7-day taster passes available in the New Year. New 3G sports pitch open end of March.



Westhoughton Community Network

Howfen Radio (Phil Macivor) – is involved in Westhoughton Market pre-Christmas events, and will be providing regular music and entertainment there from January.

Their September 'Howfenbury Music Festival' took place at the White Lion car park, 17th September with many local artists performing, and money raised for Francis House Children's Hospice.

Friends of Eatock Lodge (Trevor Benn) – unfortunately a Big Lottery bid for a programme of activities for young and old across 2017 was unsuccessful, the group will look at other funding. Popular September Funday should go ahead. Awarded certificates for Civic Achievement from Mayor of Bolton at 'Green Umbrella' event.

Hope Centre and Church – Mark Taylor updated on the Community Centre which is doing well with a wide range of activities; **Westhoughton Community Choir** being a new addition to the schedule on Monday evenings. The Church holds monthly quiz evenings and will hold their Carol Service on Saturday, 17th December (7:00pm).

Johnny Crook gave news of **Westhoughton Poetry Group**, it will be meeting again at Westhoughton Library in 2017 – last Thursday of month, from 2:00pm. Those enjoying poetry or trying their hand at creative writing welcome. From his success at Yarn Bombing and even Steam Train Fairs, Johnny is offering his services as Town Crier for community events.

Rotary Club of Westhoughton – Steve Harrington gave information about the all-important Santa Sleigh float tours, raising money for good causes; Harold's presence will be felt. A busy time for the club with events at Brookfield. Details of float tour online at RCW and WCN.

Friends of Daisy Hill Railway Station (Jack Speight) quieter over winter, the group now working with new rail franchise holders; keeping station clean and tidy, as well as having more social gatherings. Work schedule to be updated for 2017 (see WCN).

Westhoughton Local History Group – meetings, talks and occasional trips as usual (2nd and 4th Thursdays at Library - 10:00am). Currently compiling record of all historic information and photos to create a searchable archive – a timeline of Westhoughton – contributions welcome. Ted Wisedale has many local and community videos on his YouTube channel.

Westhoughton Methodist Church (Rev. Lesley Dinham) – Christmas Services announced. There was also an update on **Westhoughton Methodist ADS**, their 2017 Pantomime 'Cinderella' is to be performed on Friday/Saturday 10th/11th and 17th/18th February, details on WCN website. Tickets (£6) available from Church Hall Tuesday, Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings.

WCN sends its best wishes to Bill Greenhalgh for a speedy recovery from treatment.

Based at the John Holt Centre, the first tranche of community workshops, educational and skills training has been delivered by **PSoup** in conjunction with **HACFRA/WAVE**, Charlotte Carlin was pleased with take up; a new programme to be up and running after Christmas break. An initiative touching on practical skills (like 'Men in Sheds') has been a hit with women.



Westhoughton Community Network

Doug Cunliffe reported that **Washacre FM** is looking to broadcast during the summer. It will be the 10th year of this popular community radio broadcast. Details to be announced, but there will be opportunities for presenters and people to work behind the scenes making it happen.

Tony McGarry on behalf of **W.A.C.O.** spoke of the group's fundraising and cause-related activities, including a Coffee Morning that raised £334. Grants are available to local groups > [details](#).

It is to launch a 'Big December Raffle' with prizes donated by local people and businesses to raise money young, local mum Polly Haydock needing specialist treatment for a rare cancer. *Update: after deductions a massive £4,570 was raised by the Raffle.*

WCN welcomed Darren Knight, Chief Officer at **Bolton CVS**, who gave a brief overview of the Bolton community support organisation based at The Hub.

Championing the sector, [Bolton CVS](#) gives advice, support and offers training to community groups. Managing money given to the community by Bolton Council, there are regular funding rounds (Small Grants Programme) – bids encouraged from Westhoughton for up to £1,500 (by 27th February for next round).

10. Any Other Business

- In the run up to Christmas Westhoughton Market is open on Sundays (10-4). The rear hall now has many permanent stalls enhancing its offer.
- The Pretoria Pit Remembrance events are on Wednesday, 21st December marking the 1910 mining disaster.
- Public Consultation events planned over December regarding proposals for the 'Greater Manchester Spatial Framework', a major planning exercise setting out housing, affordable housing and employment objectives until 2035. Westhoughton will be particularly affected with potentially over 4,000 houses in the area and the loss of open land sites and greenbelt – there seems little in respect of any much needed improvement in infrastructure and services. The S.W.A.N. [website](#) has information and links. Consultation deadline 16th January.
- The Barking Berry's Christmas Fair took place on 19th November at The Bethel, with online auctions, the canine fundraising group, led by Scarlett Berry, has now raised over £24,000.
- Popular last time round, a downloadable sheet detailing all Church services over Christmas and New Year across denominations is to be produced.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting will take place Tuesday, 7th February at St. John's, Wingates.

Meeting finished at 9:10pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk